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U.S. Militarist Plans in Space

CPYRGHT

OUR generation has been witnessing the rapid conquest of space, and has grown accustomed to take in its stride grand successes in the development of social productive forces and scientific achievements of which future generations will speak with respect. It is no accident that the Soviet Union, the world's first Socialist state, now leads the world in the conquest and the peaceful use of space. The peoples have long since heard the bleeps of the sputniks and have watched the flight of the Vostok spaceships on TV screens: they have attended the emergence of the first man in outer space, and he was a Communist.

Peace-loving men on this planet are happy to hear of other countries' achievements in space research for the benefit of mankind. The Soviet Government, on behalf of the peoples of the U.S.S.R., has repeatedly extended congratulations to the American people in that connection. But all these sentiments do not give us the right to close our eyes to certain dangerous tendencies in the present period. The situation demands redoubled vigilance: there are feverish preparations in the United States for a war in space. Some of the projects have long since been taken off the drawing boards.

The time has come to sort out the Pentagon's barbarous plans and to oppose their implementation. This calls for an examination of Washington's view of the space weapons system on which the men in the White House have been conferring behind closed doors (even if they have clearly underestimated the actual arrangement of forces in the world).

THE SPACE BARBARITY OF HIMMLER'S CRONY

TWO booklets by Wernher von Braun, Ph. D., were published in the U.S.A. in 1952 and 1953. Let us note that this happened about five years before the launching of the first sputnik. Wernher von Braun developed the theory of

setting up a military space telescope and a space station equipped with nuclear rockets. He described the tasks of the space telescope as follows: The military significance of the cosmic telescope is self-evident, but for strategic reasons observation of the Earth will not be carried out by a technician... Everything will be photographed, and the pictures will be processed by aerial reconnaissance experts. A special camera, incorporating the experience of aerial photo reconnaissance, is linked up with the telescope. During the station's two-hour flight around the earth, the camera will take ... at least 100 pictures.¹ These pictures are to be transmitted to earth with the aid of a picture transmitter.

Von Braun was working out the strategy of space espionage in a most businesslike fashion, but he also gave thought to the "possible application" of his planned space station. He wrote:

It can be turned into an effective atomic bomber. Small winged missiles with atomic warheads may be directed from the station in such a way as to hit targets while travelling at supersonic speed. Radar installations will help to direct atomic load to any point of the globe. There will be no place on earth, from pole to pole, immune to this space weapon which is to be launched from the station in outer space. Considering that the station will be in flight over all the populated localities of the globe, it is clear that it offers the most considerable tactical and strategic advantages which had ever existed in the history of wars.²

The author of this strategy has never been a dreamer, with his feet off the ground. He is SS Sturmbahnführer Wernher von Braun, a close friend of Himmler, who in 1944 did not hesitate

¹ Wernher von Braun, *Die Eroberung des Weltraums*, Frankfurt/Main, 1958, S. 45.

² *Ibid.*, S. 51-54.

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